

MARVEL
PREMIERE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP TM



20¢
EE

5
NOV
02142

MARVEL PREMIERE
FEATURING



DR. STRANGE

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS TM



COME, GREAT
SLIGGUTH-- AND
CLAIM THY PRIZE--
THE SOUL OF
DR. STRANGE!!

BENEATH
THESE HAUNTED
HILLS-- A
BATTLE FOR
THE LIFE OF
A WORLD!

THE LURKER IN THE LABYRINTH!

Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

GARDNER
F. FOX
WRITER

IRV
WESLEY
ARTIST

DON
PERLIN
INKER

SAM
ROSEN
LETTERER

ROY
THOMAS
EDITOR

FEATURING CONCEPTS
CREATED BY:
ROBERT E. HOWARD

THE LURKER IN THE LABYRINTH!

SHUB FTHNAKOR MORAKTH!
SHUB FTHNAKOR MORAKTH!

DEEPER, EVER MORE
REPTILIAN, GROW THE
CHANTING VOICES,
WRAPPED IN HIDEOUS
RITUAL... TO THE
ABOMINATION CALLED
SLIGGUTH!

AND ON THE
SACRIFICIAL
ALTAR LIES...
**DOCTOR
STRANGE!**

CHAINS...
TOO STRONG!
NEVER
BREAK THEM!

I'M DOOMED
HERE--HELPLESS
BEFORE WHATEVER
LIES BEYOND THAT
SERPENT-STUDDED
TAPESTRY--!

THEN-- SCALED
CLAWS SWEEP BACK
ORNATE CURTAINS,
TO REVEAL...



THE GREAT ONE--AND HIS PRIESTESS, EBORA!



AYE--YOU GAZE UPON EBORA, DARK SERVANT OF THE GREAT ONE SLIGGUTH!

ONLY YOU MIGHT PREVENT THAT WHICH IS TO COME--THE RISING UP FROM SLUMBER OF DREAD SHUMA-GORATH--

--TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD!



AND SO YOU MUST DIE, STEPHEN STRANGE!

UGHTY SLIGGUTH--HE IS YOURS!

WAIT!



MUST PLAY FOR TIME--

--STILL-- CAN'T BREAK LOOSE--

AND YET...

STAY, O MIGHTY SCALED ONE!

LET THE LIVING SACRIFICE SPEAK HIS FINAL WORDS!



THEN TELL ME, AT LEAST, IN WHOSE NAME I AM TO DIE--

WHAT IS... SLIGGUTH?

WHO IS... SHUMA-GORATH?

AND WHY SHOULD I NOT TELL YOU?

YOU, WHO WILL SOON BE RENT LIMB FROM LIMB BY GREAT SLIGGUTH HIMSELF!



KNOW THEN, DOCTOR STRANGE, THAT IN THOSE LONG-FORGOTTEN EONS OF EARTH-- IN THOSE PRIMAL DAYS OF OUR WORLD'S BEGINNING--SHUMA-GORATH WAS ALL!

OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL WAS THE WISH OF ALL CREATURES

HIS NAME WAS WHISPERED IN REVERENCE BY EVERY LIVING THING!



BUT AS THE EONS PASSED, SHUMA-GORATH YEARNED FOR REST-- AND SO HE TOOK REFUGE WITHIN THE VAULTS OF EARTH ITSELF--

--THERE TO DREAM-- AND LIE IN WAIT--

--UNTIL THE TIME FOR HIS FINAL AWAKENING!

SOON NOW, HE SHALL ARISE-- SOON, SOON!

NOT IF I CAN PREVENT IT!



ALL MEN SHALL BE SHUMA-GORATH'S SLAVES, HIS SERVITORS, HIS WORSHIPPERS!

WHEN YOU DIE, NONE SHALL STAND IN HIS PATH!

BUT THESE PEOPLE-- WHY HAVE THEY CHANGED?

WHY ARE THEY-- NO LONGER HUMAN?

LISTEN, THEN, INFIDEL--



--CENTURIES AGO, A BAND OF FISHERFOLK SETTLED IN THIS NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE--

--AND ON A MOONLIT NIGHT, FROM THE DEEP CAME--

--A SERPENT-TWINED INVERTED CROSS!

WHAT IS IT? WHO COULD HAVE PLACED IT HERE-- AND WHY?

WHAT CAN IT MEAN?



THAT MOMENT ON, THE PEOPLE CHANGED, GREW REPTILIAN! ALREADY THE POWER OF SLEGGUTH WAS ALIVE UPON THE LAND!

GREAT SLEGGUTH, WE ADORE THEE!

MAKE US ONE WITH THEE-- WHO SEES ALL, KNOWS ALL!



A DARK PRIESTESS HE SELECTED -- CALLED ON HER TO DO HIS WILL--

IN RETURN, SHE ALONE REMAINED HUMAN!

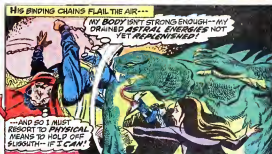
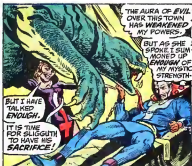


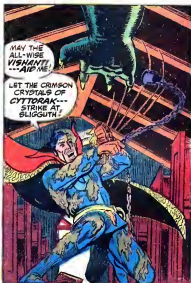
THE STARKSBORO CHURCH THEY THEN DEDICATED-- PUT THERE AN ALTAR ON WHICH TO OFFER VICTIMS --AND TO CHANT THEIR ACCURSED RHYTHMS!

AAN HATHER SLEGGUTH!

MORGALLOS SLEGGUTH!

NO! NOOO!





IN THE AIR ABOUT HIS FINGERS GATHER THE
SCARLET MOTES THAT ARE THE CRYSTALS OF
CYTTORAK---

NOW, DEMON-
THING-- WE
SHALL SEE
WHAT WE
SHALL SEE!

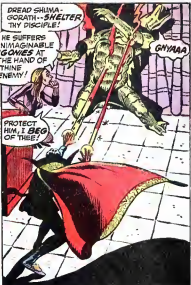


DREAD SHUMA-
GORATH-- SHELTER
THY DISCIPLE!

HE SUFFERS
UNIMAGINABLE
AGONIES AT
THE HAND OF
THINE
ENEMY!

GNYAAA

PROTECT
HIM, I BEG
OF THEE!



BUT, DREAD SHUMA-GORATH LIES *SLEEPING*, FOR IT
IS NOT YET HIS TIME TO *RISE*! AND SO---

I HAVE NOT ALL
MY FORMER POWERS
--- THIS TOWN'S EVIL
AURA PREVENTS
THAT!

N'THAGA
KRAKOR!

-- BUT THE ANCIENT
ONE IS *HELPING*!
I FEEL HIS WILL
AIDING MINE.



MAY THE FLAMES
OF THE FALTIME
DRIVE YOU BACK
TO YOUR LAIR!





AND NOW LET
THE MAGICAL
RAINS OF
RAGGADOOR
FALL---

--TO DRIVE THESE
FUNGOID GROWTHS
FROM MY BODY

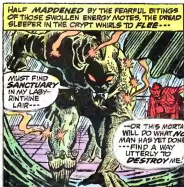
--EVEN AS YOU LEARN
THAT HUMANITY WILL NEVER
BOW WILLINGLY BENEATH
YOUR LOATHSOME YOKE!



AHH... THE RAINS
DISSOLVE THE
WILE FUNGUS!

-- WHILE SLIGGUTH
SUFFERS THE UNTOLD
TORMENTS OF THE
SACRED FIRES!

GAYAAAAA...



HALF MADDENED BY THE FEARFUL BITINGS
OF THOSE SWOLLEN ENERGY NOTES, THE DREAD
SLEEPER IN THE CRYPT WHIRLS TO FLEE---

MUST FIND
SANCTUARY
IN MY LADY-
RINTINE
LAIR---

--OR THIS MORTAL
WILL DO WHAT NO
MAN HAS YET DONE!
---FIND A WAY
UTTERLY TO
DESTROY ME!



HE HAS DRIVEN AWAY SLIGGUTH
WITH HIS NECROMANTIC SKILLS!

BUT HE IS WEAK NOW--WEAK!

HE CAN NEVER HOPE TO
DEFEAT YOU ALSO-- YOU
PEOPLE WHO ARE THE
SPAWN OF SLIGGUTH.



THE TIME IS--NOW!
ATTACK!!

I'M NO MATCH FOR
THESE CREATURES!

YET IF I DON'T STOP
THEM-- DRIVE THEM
OFF IN SOME MANNER--

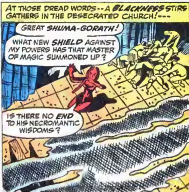
THEY'LL KILL ME!

ONLY ONE CHANCE--!



I CALL UPON THE VAPORS OF VALTORR
TO SURROUND US!

LET THEIR
HIDDEN LIGHT-
NINGSS SERVE
MY WILL!

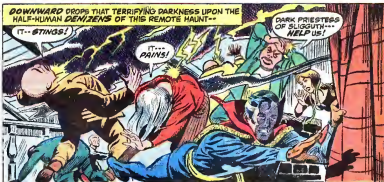


AT THOSE DREAD WORDS--A **BLACKNESS** STIRS
GATHERS IN THE DESECRATED CHURCH!--

GREAT SHUMA-GORATH!

WHAT NEW **SHIELD** AGAINST
MY POWERS HAS THAT MASTER
OF MAGIC SUMMONED UP?

IS THERE NO **END**
TO HIS NECROMANTIC
WISDOMS?



DOWNWARD DROPS THAT TERRIFYING DARKNESS UPON THE
HALF-HUMAN **DENIZENS** OF THIS REMOTE HAUNT--

IT--**STINGS!**

IT--**PAINS!**

DARK PRIESTESS
OF SLUGGUTH--
HELP US!

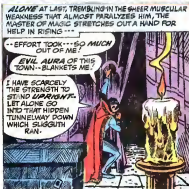


ESORA-- WE CANNOT
OVERWHELM THE MAGE!

HE CALLS ON HIDDEN
POWERS WITH WHICH
WE CANNOT COPE!

YES! I MUST FIND
ANOTHER, A **BETTER**
WAY TO DO AWAY
WITH HIM--

--AND I THINK I
KNOW WHAT
IT IS!



ALONE AT LAST, TREMBLING IN THE SHEER MUSCULAR
WEAKNESS THAT ALMOST PARALYZES HIM, THE
MASTER OF MAGIC STRETCHES OUT A HAND FOR
HELP IN RISING--

--EFFORT TOOK--SO MUCH
OUT OF ME!

EVIL AURA OF THIS
TOWN--BLANKETS ME!

I HAVE SCARCELY
THE STRENGTH TO
STAND **UPRIGHT**.
LET ALONE GO
INTO THAT HIDDEN
TUNNELWAY DOWN
WHICH SLUGGUTH
RAN.

BUT I MUST GO ON!
SLUGGUTH HAS TO BE
DESTROYED--AND ONLY
I CAN DO IT.

FROM DEEP WITHIN ME---
FROM SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE
--I SHALL FIND THE WILL
TO DO WHAT MUST
BE DONE.

THIS BLACK CANDLE
SHALL LIGHT MY WAY!



THIS SPIDER-WEBBED TUNNEL
LEADS DOWNWARD---
THROUGH SOLID ROCK! DEEPER
--EVER DEEPER IT DESCENDS,
INTO THE VERY BOWELS OF
EARTH ITSELF!



YET I SHALL
FOLLOW WHERE
IT LEADS---
WITHOUT
FALTERING.

FROM THE DARKNESS BEYOND
THE CANDLE'S GLEAM SOUNDS
THE BEAT OF LEATHERY WINGS
--AND THEN--

HUGE BATS!

THEY-- BITE! THEY--
DRINK MY BLOOD!



WHY HAS THIS DREAD MANTLE
--THE WEIGHT OF A WORLD
BESIEGED-- FALLEN UPON
MY SHOULDERS?

WHY MUST IT BE I WHO
SUFFERS--WHO MUST
STAND ALMOST ALONE
AGAINST THE POWERS
OF ANCIENT EVIL?

I AM BUT MORTAL
---A MERE MAN!



I AM-- NO GOD-LIKE GIANT
TO SHRUG OFF THEIR ATTACKS!

EACH ONE TAKES A
LITTLE MORE OUT
OF ME.

AND ALWAYS--- I
GROW A LITTLE WEAKER.
MY LEGS TREMBLE--MY
HANDS SHAKE.



IT BECOMES EVER HARDER
TO FIGHT ON--TO ATTEMPT TO CALL
UP MY MYSTIC POWERS:

NO LONGER CAN I COUNT ON
THE GOOD FORCES IN THIS
WORLD-- THE VISHANTI--
THAT SEEM TO BE ASLEEP.

I'M GOING TO DIE HERE,
SUFFOCATED BY
THESE THINGS
THAT HEM
ME IN!



UNLESS--
THOSE
**SPIDER
WEBS!**

THEY'RE DRY-- THEY
MUST BE LIKE **TINDER**
ITSELF IF **ONLY**
I CAN--

A TOUCH OF FLAME TO FLUFFY
SPIDER- WEBBING, OR ROAR OF
FIRE RISING UPWARD, AND
THOSE LABYRINTHINE TUNNELS
ARE FILLED AS IF WITH A
DEVONIAN CONFLAGRATION---

THE WAY IS
CLEAR--
EXCEPT FOR
THE FIRES.

I'VE OVER-
COME **ONE**
OBSTACLE
PLACED HERE
BY SLUGGUTH
TO KEEP AWAY
UNWANTED
VISITORS!

BUT-- THERE
WILL BE
OTHERS
AHEAD
OF ME.

EVER DEEPER INTO THE ROCK HE
DESCENDS ---

YET: I MUST GO ON,
DOWN THESE HAND-
MEWN STONE STEPS
INTO THE VERY
HOLLOW OF
THE EARTH!

ABOVE ME
I CAN HEAR
THE BOOM-
ING POUND
OF SURF.
I AM---
BELOW
THE SEA!

CLOSE TO THE
PRIMAL
LAIR WHERE
SLUGGUTH LIES
WAITING!

HIS FOOT STEPS TOWARD A
FLAGSTONE ---

-- EVEN AS HIS EYES SIGHT A
LONG, STRAIGHT SHADOW ---

WHAT'S -- **THIS?**

I CAME CLOSE
TO STEPPING
ON THAT STONE --

AND THAT
SHADOW
WARNS ME
OF IMPENDING
-- **DANGER!**

WITH A CURIOUS FINGER HE
TOUCHES THE STONE FLAGG
JUST BEYOND THAT DARK LINE --

IT
YIELDS!

THE STONE **PIVOTS EASILY**---
OPENS! FAR BELOW, HE SEES---

A PIT--WHERE
VIPERS DWELL!

I WOULD HAVE
 PLUNGED INTO
 IT--**UNABLE** TO
 SAVE MYSELF-- IF
 THE CANDLE FLAME
 HADN'T SHOWN ME
 THAT NARROW
 SPACE BETWEEN
 FLOOR AND PIVOT-
 ING FLAGSTONE!



WHAT **NEW** HORRORS LURK
 BEYOND THIS DEADLY TRAP?
 WHAT **OTHER** DREAD
 DEATHS HAS SLUGGUTH
 PLANNED FOR ME?

YET I MUST GO **ON!** I
 CANNOT STOP-- NOR
 TURN BACK!

MY TASK AWAITS ME!



EVEN AS DEATH BRUSHES MY
 CLOAK AT EVERY STRIDE---

--- I FIND MYSELF WONDERING
 WHY I NO LONGER FEEL THE
 PRESENCE OF MY MENTOR,
 THE **ANCIENT ONE**.

SOMEHOW-- I SENSE THAT
 HE STANDS IN NEED OF
 MY **HELP**-- JUST AS
 EARLIER, I NEEDED
HIS



YET-- I HAVE **NO** HELP TO SPARE

FOR SLUGGUTH WAITS IN HIS
 LAIR FOR MY COMING-- WHEN
 WE SHALL FIGHT THAT **FINAL**
 BATTLE WHICH MUST
 BE FOUGHT---

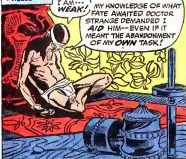
-- IF GOOD IS TO **OVER-**
COME THE EVIL OF
 SHUMA-GORATH!



FAR ACROSS THE **SEAS** AND **CONTINENTS**, IN
 THAT **EON-OLD** LAND WHERE THE **ANCIENT ONE**
 DWELLS---

I AM---
WEAK!

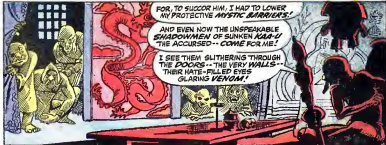
MY KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT
 FATE AWAITED DOCTOR
 STRANGE DEMANDED I
AID HIM-- EVEN IF IT
 MEANT THE ABANDONMENT
 OF MY **OWN** TASK!



AND SO I GAVE TO HIM MY **VERY OWN** POWER---
 ENABLING HIM TO WORK HIS **MAGICKS** EVEN
 THOUGH HIS OWN NECROMANTIC POTENCY WAS
WEAKENED BY THE EVIL AURA BLANKETING
 DEVILISH, **DOOMED** STARKSBORO!

BUT-- AT WHAT A
FRIGHTFUL
COST!





FOR, TO SUCCEED HIM, I HAD TO LOWER
MY PROTECTIVE **MYSTIC BARRIERS!**

AND EVEN NOW THE UNSPEAKABLE
SHADOWMEN OF SUNKEN KAD-U
THE ACCURSED-- COME FOR ME!

I SEE THEM SLITHERING THROUGH
THE **DOORS**-- THE VERY **WALLS**--
THEIR HATE-FILLED EYES
GLARING VENOM!



I CANNOT RESIST THEM!

THEIR COLD, CRUEL **HANDS**
FASTEN ON MY WEAKENED
BODY-- LIFT IT EASILY!

THEY
CARRY ME
OFF TO
WORK
THEIR
WICKED
WILLS
ON MY
HELP-
LESS
FLESH!



NO LONGER CAN I AID DOCTOR STRANGE!

ALONE-- HE MUST DO THAT WHICH
MUST BE DONE IF EVER EARTH IS TO
BE FREED FROM **SHUMA-GORATH**--
HE WHO LIES SLEEPING IN HIS
ETERNAL HOME!

I AM--
FINISHED!



AT THIS MOMENT IN HER CITY APARTMENT, A GIRL
CALLED **CLEA*** WAKES WITH A FRIGHTENED CRY---

OHNNH!

SUCH AN
UNCANNY
DREAM!

*REMEMBER CLEA, THE ONCE-QUEEN FROM ANOTHER
DIMENSION, WHO LOVES DR. STRANGE? SURE YOU DO!--BOY



AND YET-- WAS
IT BUT A DREAM?

FOR I SENSE THAT
UMAR SENT IT---
SHE WHO IS SISTER
TO DREAD **DOR-**
MAMMU--YET
WHO OFT WORKS
AGAINST EVIL,
FOR HER OWN
SECRET PURPOSES!

IN IT, SHE WARNED
ME OF TERRIBLE
PERIL TO DOCTOR
STRANGE-- AND
TO THE ANCIENT
ONE!



I MUST HURRY TO STEPHEN'S
APARTMENT-- RESTORE HIS
SHATTERED **ORB OF**
AGAMOTTO TO ITS
OLDEN POWER--
DISCOVER WHAT
PERILS THREATEN
THEM BOTH--

--THEN FIND A
WAY TO LEND
MY STRENGTH
TO THEIRS!

SOON AFTERWARD, WONG IS AWAKENED BY A POUNDING ON HIS MASTER'S DOOR---

THE MASTER IS IN DANGER, MISS CLEA?

HE IS, WONG

WE MUST HELP HIM, YOU AND I--- FOR THE ANCIENT ONE CANNOT!

HE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE UNSPEAKABLE SHADOWMEN OF LONG-DEAD KAA-U-- OR SO UMAR'S DREAM INFORMED ME.

THOSE BROKEN PIECES OF AN ANCIENT, MAGICAL POWER RISE UPWARD-- FLOAT THROUGH THE AIR-- BEGIN TO FASTEN THEMSELVES TOGETHER---

SOON NOW-- WE SHALL KNOW!

AYE! WE SHALL SEE WHAT AWFUL DANGER THREATENS!

AND THERE-- THE ANCIENT ONE!

BEING CARRIED OFF BY THOSE SAME SHADOWMEN I SAW IN MY DREAM!

HERE IS THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO, WHICH WAS BROKEN IN BATTLE!

BY THE POWER IN THE WOOD, BY THE POWER IN THE STONE-- LET THESE SHATTERED SHARDS ALONE, BE NOW AS THEY ALWAYS SHOULD!

LOOK YOU, WONG! DOCTOR STRANGE-- BENEATH THE SEA!

HE'S IN A STONE LABYRINTH WHEREIN A MONSTROUS BEING CROUCHES-- WAITING FOR HIS COMING!

WE CANNOT HELP THE OLD ONE-- HE IS TOO FAR AWAY!

BUT WE CAN GO TO DOCTOR STRANGE-- FOR HE'S IN STARKSBORO, THAT GHUL-HAUNTED TOWN BY THE EDGE OF THE OCEAN!

I'LL GET THE CAR, MISS CLEA.

THROUGH THE **BLACK NIGHT** RACES A POWERFUL AUTO WITH ONLY THE **MOON** AS WITNESS TO ITS SPEED---



AHEAD IS SINISTER **STARKS BORO**-- BROODING UNDER THAT MOON, ALIVE WITH EVIL, WITH THAT **AURA** WHICH TELLS OF **UNSPEAKABLE ABOMINATIONS**, OF MYSTERIES BEST FORGOTTEN BY MAN, OF WAITING HORROR---



WHILE, BELOW THE SHEER STONE CRAGS THAT BORDER THIS **SPECTRAL VILLAGE**, THE SEA POUNDS ITS ETERNAL RHYTHMS, WHISPERING OF HIM WHO SLEEPS BUT WHO WILL AWAKEN---



HE ROUNDS A BEND IN THE TUNNELWAY, AND---





HIS POWER IS HIS SECRET,
HIS SECRET IS HIS POWER!

AND I--SUGGUTH--SHARE
THAT POWER AND THAT
SECRET.

NOW---
PERISH!



WHAAAAKK!



HALF DAZED BY THAT MONSTROUS BLOW, THE
MASTER OF MAGIC FEELS COLD HANDS CLOSE
ABOUT HIM---

CRUSH HIS BONES!

SHRED HIS FLESH!

NOT EVEN MY
CLOAK OF
LEVITATION
CAN SAVE
ME NOW!

I'M BEING
HELD TOO
TIGHTLY
FOR IT TO
RAISE ME
UPWARD!



OUT OF A DESPAIRING HEART, DOCTOR STRANGE
CRIES ALOUD---

YOU WHO ARE THE VISHANTI--
YOU GOOD ONES OF THE UNIVERSE!

LEND ME YOUR
POWERS!

OR ELSE THAT ANCIENT
EVIL NAMED SHUMA-
GORATH SHALL
CONQUER THIS
WORLD!

AYE! HE WHO
SLEEPS BUT
SHALL AWAKE
WILL RULE
THIS EARTH--
AND ALL WHO
DWELL UPON
IT!

FROM OUT THE GULFS OF SPACE BETWEEN THE WORLDS, FROM THAT SUPERNAL REGION WHERE DWELL THE ETERNAL ONES-- THOSE WHO BEAR THE NAME VISHANTI!-- COMES A RADIANT GLOW!--

WHO CALLS UPON THE UNDYING VISHANTI?!

IT IS STEVEN STRANGE-- DISCIPLE OF OUR REVERED SERVANT, THE ANCIENT ONE!

THEN LET US APPEAR TO HIM-- BUT NOT AS WE TRULY ARE-- FOR NO MERE MORTAL MIND COULD COMPREHEND US THEN-- NOT EVEN HIS!

LET US THEN BE SEEN IN THREE FLESHLY GUIDES-- AND THUS SAVE HIS SANITY!

STILL, WE MUST DENY HIS REQUEST FOR AID-- LEST WE UPSET THE COSMIC BALANCE-- AND OPEN THE DOOR TO CHAOS!

--AND YET-- I SENSE AN EVIL AURA!

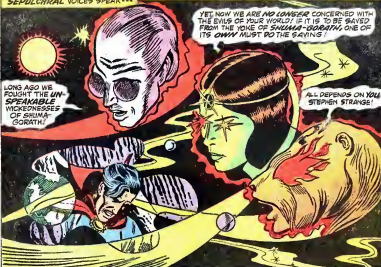
AYE! 'TIS THE WICKED POWER OF SHUMA-GORATH-- EVOKED BY THIS, HIS MONSTROUS MINION!

WE RECALL WELL THE EVIL ONE WHO SLEEPS-- YET EVEN SO, WE SHALL NOT INTERVENE!

THUS IT IS WRITTEN-- THUS MUST IT EVER BE!

AND NOW, THOSE PHANTOM FACES VANISH INTO THE VOID WHICH LIES BEYOND THE FRAYED EDGES OF REALITY-- AND DR. STRANGE IS ONCE MORE-- ALONE!

AS FROM A DISTANCE SO REMOTE AS TO BE UNFATHOMABLE TO MANKIND, ONCE MORE DO THOSE SEPULCHRAL VOICES SPEAK---



LONG AGO WE
FOUGHT THE **UN-
SPEAKABLE**
WICKEDNESSES
OF SHUMA-
GORATH!

YET NOW WE ARE NO LONGER CONCERNED WITH
THE EVILS OF YOUR WORLD! IF IT IS TO BE SAVED
FROM THE YOKE OF SHUMA-GORATH, ONE OF
ITS OWN MUST DO THE SAVING!

ALL DEPENDS ON YOU
STEPHEN STRANGE!



STILL--

FOR A LITTLE
WHILE, WE CAN
SUSPEND
THE EVIL AURA
THAT DEPRIVES
THE MASTER
OF MAGIC OF
HIS MYSTICAL
STRENGTHS!

AND--WE
SHALL!



IF THE EVIL AURA
INDEED BE **LIFTED**
FROM ABOUT ME---

THEN SHALL I
TEST IT BY
SUMMONING
UP THE **ROVING**
RINGS OF
RAGGADOR!

I ORDER THEM
TO **SHATTER**
THESE ROCKY
HANDS THAT
CLUTCH ME.

NEVER!

FOR NOW--
YOU DIE!

CORUSCATING WITH THEURGIC BRILLIANCE, THROUGH THE GLOOM OF THE SUB-MARINE CAVERN, THOSE SPECTRAL CIRCLES SURGE FORWARD, HISsing AND GIZZLING AS THEY SLICE THROUGH SOLID ROCK!...

MY MYSTIC GIFTS RETURN TO ME!
NOW INDEED, SLUGGUTH-- SHALL WE BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY!

MAY THE SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM PROTECT ME!

IN THE SILENCE OF THAT TERRIBLE LAIR, MAN MEETS DEMONIC BEING WITH WHITE MAGIC THAT CONFRONTS THE BLACK! EVER THEY STRIVE, EVER THEY MATCH WILL TO WILL, MUSCLE TO MUSCLE!--

I AM MYSELF AGAIN! ABLE TO SUMMON UP THOSE MAGICKS THAT HAVE ALWAYS ANSWERED MY CALL!

I TURN THOSE NEGROMANTIC BOLTS, DOCTOR STRANGE...

...AND HURL AT YOU FRIGHTFUL ABOMINATIONS GRANTED ME BY PREAD SHUMA-GORATH!

BAH! MAGIC IS USELESS TO ME!

BESIDES, I'D RATHER FEEL YOU SCREAM FOR MERCY BENEATH MY CLAWS!

THAT YOU SHALL NEVER FEEL, MONSTER!

BY ABANDONING MAGIC FOR THE PHYSICAL-- YOU HAVE GIVEN ME MY CHANCE!

LET THE RINGS OF RAGGADORR BIND THEMSELVES ABOUT YOUR FLESH--

--AND HOLD YOU SUBJECT TO MY WILL!

NO! NEVER!!
SHUMA-GORATH-- HEAR MY PLEA!
AID ME!

WHILE, ABOVE
THE DRIVING
SURF, ABOVE
THE DARK
PRIESTESS
CRIES UPON
THE **REMAINS**
OF THE ANCIENT
DEEP TO RISE
UP AND
DEFEND
SLIGGUTH,
HER MASTER--

N'THAGH FANTHUGH!

**XTHARTHC
CNTHORAK!**

CEASE
FROM YOUR
DREAMINGS,
YOU **SEA-
THINGS** AND
GHOULS!
SPEED TO
HIS AID, YOU
WHO WAIT
UPON THE **COMING**
OF **SHUMA-GORATH!**

SHAKE TO YOUR VERY FOUNDATION, THIS MY EARTH!

ROLL ON, YOU
SEAS! BATTER
WITH YOUR MIGHT
AT THE ROCK
WHERE DOCTOR
STRANGE
IMPRISONS
SLIGGUTH--

--AND
**FREE
HIM!**

IN ANSWER TO THAT PLEA, IN THE CAVERNS BELOW THE SEA-- THE
VERY **WALLS GAPE OPEN!** INWARD RUSH THE WATERS...

EBORA PRAYS TO THE ONE WHO SLEEPS!

HE WHO SHALL AWAKEN
LEADS-- HIS AID!

THE PLACE IS
CRACKING
OPEN!

AND--I
EXPENDED MY
LAST TOTAL OF
MYSTIC MIGHT--IN
BINDING
SLIGGUTH!

BONDS WHICH I HAVE JUST POWER ENOUGH-- TO **BURST ASUNDER!**

I GO-- BUT I SHALL RETURN!

AND WHEN I **DO--** MY STRENGTH
SHALL BE AS THAT OF **SHUMA-
GORATH** HIMSELF.

**MUSTN'T LET HIM
GET AWAY!**

BUT
EVEN AS
HE
SPRINGS
FORWARD
-- THE
FLOOR
YAWNS
AT HIS
FEET
AND--

I'M FALLING INTO A **CREVASSE!**

CLOAK OF
LEVITATION--
**BEAR ME
UPWARD!**

BUT, EVEN AS THE MAGIC CAPE RESPONDS--

BY THE OMNI-
POTENT
OSHTUR!

THE CREW HAS CLOSED
--I'M CAUGHT!

THE STONE
FLOOR GRIPS
ME AS THOUGH
IT WERE THE
MOUTH OF
SOME FANGED
DEMON!



AND NOW-- WATER FILLS THE CAVERN!

IT'S RISING
FASTER--
FASTER!



ON THE CRAG ABOVE THE
LAIR OF SLUGGUTH---

DOCTOR STRANGE
IS-- HELPLESS!

I GO NOW, GREAT
SHUMA-GORATH--
TO DESTROY HIM
UTTERLY!



I SHALL OFFER
HIM AS SACRIFICE
TO HIM WHO
LIES SLEEPING--
BUT WHO SHALL
AVENGE!

HIS DEATH
SHALL BE THE
SIGNAL THAT
SHUMA-GORATH
WILL SOON RISE
AGAIN TO TAKE
OVER HIS
WORLD!

YOU--THE ONE BEING WHOM THE GOD
WHO SLEEPS MUST FEAR---

--SHALL DIE ALONE THIS
NIGHT IN THE CAVERN OF
SLUGGUTH!

NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU
NOW, STEPHEN STRANGE!

NOTHING!



NEXT: THE SHAMBLER FROM THE SEA!